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Canadian Children Inflammatory Bowel Disease Network

April 2026 Newsletter



See you in Vancouver!

The Canadian Children IBD Network SUMMIT

2026: April 19-20, 2026!

**Visit www.ccibdn-summit.ca for the
conference agenda and all other details.**

**Join us for the PediUS Symposium in advance
of the Summit on April 18!**

[Register here.](#)



**INTESTINAL ULTRASOUND IN
PEDIATRIC IBD SYMPOSIUM**

APRIL 18 | VANCOUVER, BC

**You can also provide valuable feedback by
completing the National Survey on Intestinal
Ultrasound (IUS) Use for IBD in Canada**

Welcome new CIDsCaNN members:

Welcome



Pharmacist (Saskatoon)

Amrit Gopan, Senior Clinical Fellow
(Toronto)

Rabia Zahid Khan, Pediatric
Gastroenterologist (Ottawa)

Maryanne McDonald, Pharmacist (Calgary)

GI Nutrition Foundation to Host IBD Nutrition in Practice: A Culinary Experience May 3, 2026 at Digestive Disease Week (DDW)

You're invited to an interactive evening of learning, conversation, and great food. This free, open-flow experience invites attendees to explore **how evidence-based nutrition strategies can be implemented into real-world IBD care**. Drop in anytime between 6-8:30 pm to circulate among several themed stations highlighting evidence-based dietary approaches for IBD management. [Register here](#) by April 20.

New on the blog

The review of parental perspectives is part of the ongoing multi-centre study, **Parental Resource Offering Active Care Transition for Adolescents with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (PROACT-IBD)**, in partnership with CIDsCaNN.

You can now read this summary of the study on the [CIDsCaNN blog](#).

Want to know more? [Read the abstract](#) published in *Inflammatory Bowel Diseases*

OUR AIM was to explore the lived experiences of parents of chronically ill adolescents and young adults preparing for and experiencing the transition to adult care. We felt the parental perspective could positively inform our approach and help ensure a successful transition.

BACKGROUND – Traditionally, parents possess an intimate understanding of their child's medical history, treatment regimens, and individualized needs. Yet, the experiences of parents remain markedly underexplored, despite their potential to be positioned as a critical resource for promoting successful transition to adult care, and mitigating transition-related adverse health outcomes (e.g., emergency visits, hospitalizations) among adolescents and young adults.

KEY FINDINGS – With proper engagement, clearly defined responsibilities, resources and supports, empowered parents play an important role in the transition care team.

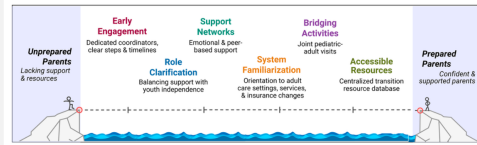


Figure 1. Literature-informed recommendations to support parental preparedness during healthcare transitions.

METHOD – This review was led by a group of patient and family partners affected by inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). In total, 54 studies were included in the review.

We followed PRISMA-ScR Checklist and Joanna Briggs Institute scoping review guidance to:

- Gather all studies related to the topic
- Categorize them (methods, populations, findings)
- Identify patterns, themes, and research gaps

Pranshu Maini, Claudia Tersigni, Samantha Micinski, Kate Murray, Sahith Rajkumar, Rebecca Bekele, Sarah Cairns, Karen Frost

CIDSCaNN
The Canadian Inflammatory Bowel Disease Network

PROACT-IBD STUDY
PROACT-IBD STUDY: A National Cohort Study of Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Canada

For more information on the study email info@cidscann.ca
www.cidscann.ca

Highlights from the Year Four Report submitted to the CH.I.L.D. Foundation are now available.



YEAR FOUR HIGHLIGHTS 2025

Building upon the national research infrastructure established during Phase 1 (2013–2020), the Canadian Children Inflammatory Bowel Disease Network continues to advance impactful, multi-centre research initiatives addressing key knowledge gaps in pediatric inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

Beyond research, the Network's mandate now encompasses Education and Patient Engagement & Advocacy. Knowledge mobilization activities have expanded through strategic communications initiatives and global visibility is growing through strategic partnerships, an increasing social media presence and scientific presentations at international meetings.

Our membership continues to grow – we currently have 71 members from 12 academic centres across Canada, including 5 new members over the past year. There are 14 trainees, 9 PhD scientists, and 6 clinician scientists. While most members are gastroenterologists, we have surgeons, dietitians, and pharmacist members.

Changes to the Executive Committee – Dr. Eytan Wine completed his term in November. Dr. Eric Benchimol transitioned to Co-Chair along with Co-Chair Dr. Eileen Crowley, and Dr. Sally Lawrence joined the EC as Co-Chair Elect.



AMBITION

Enrollment into the Network's phase 2 Crohn's disease cohort ended early in Year 4 and as of February 1, 2026, all 257 patients have completed one year of biologic therapy, with data now ready for comparative analysis.

This unique cohort also supports optimization of biologic therapy through proactive therapeutic drug monitoring and offers the opportunity to refine endoscopic severity assessment via centralized colonoscopy video recordings.



MANUSCRIPTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Members continue to share the work being done through articles and presentations, in Canada and internationally. In 2025: four published manuscripts; eight presentations/posters at ESPGHAN, CDDW and more.



PARTNERED PROJECTS

Partnered projects allow us to investigate:

- the role of pathobionts in children with colitis
- predictors of response to anti-TNF therapy
- collection of intestinal resection biospecimens
- youth and parent preferences for treatments
- improving transition to adult care



EDUCATION & MENTORSHIP

Since 2021, we've been bringing network members together in nation-wide virtual seminars to identify research gaps and facilitate discussions about possible collaborative research ideas. We held four virtual education sessions in 2025.

As part of a collaboration with the TRIANGLE initiative, CCIBDN members actively serve as mentors, sharing expertise and guidance with emerging researchers.

Remember to update the Project Tracker!

are followed, and highlight the amazing work being done. Already leading a project? Make sure it's listed – and if it is, take a moment to confirm the info is accurate and up to date. Let's keep the momentum going!

Find the Tracker in the CIDSCaNN Shared Documents DropBox folder, within the CIDSCaNN Activity Management folder. If you have trouble accessing it, contact Michelle (michelle.ouzounis@sickkids.ca).

Project Tracker on the shared Dropbox

Important Reminders

The CIDSCaNN shared documents Dropbox has logo files, poster templates, branded powerpoint templates and the Project Tracker for member use.

Preparing a grant application? The budget builder is available by contacting Michelle at michelle.ouzounis@sickkids.ca.

Access the CIDSCaNN database. We encourage members and trainees to develop research protocols, abstracts and publications using information from the database. Find information on the [Governance & Policies](#) page.

CIDSCaNN provides financial support for the cost of printing posters and abstract fees for network-related submissions. Please email Suzanne at suzanne.shek@sickkids.ca for information.

Conference travel funds are available for trainees and early-stage investigators who submit and present abstracts of CIDSCaNN data.

Find the application form [on the website](#).

Download medication fact sheets. The Patient Engagement & Advisory Committee has created a series of medication fact sheets designed to be printed and provided to patients and families. They're available in multiple languages (stay tuned as more will be added as they're available) [on the website!](#)

CIDSCaNN

Educate

Next Education session will be on June 9, 2026 — 3-4:30 p.m. EST

Title: TBD (IBD, Dermatology, and Rheumatology)

Presented by:

Dr. Jeff Critch, Pediatric GI, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Dr. Ian Landells, Dermatology, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Dr. Paul Dancey, Pediatric Rheumatology, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Dr. Sarah Dinn, Pediatric GI, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Supported by: The CIDSCaNN Education Committee

Can't make it? No problem!

You can watch recordings of past education sessions on the [CIDSCaNN YouTube channel](#).

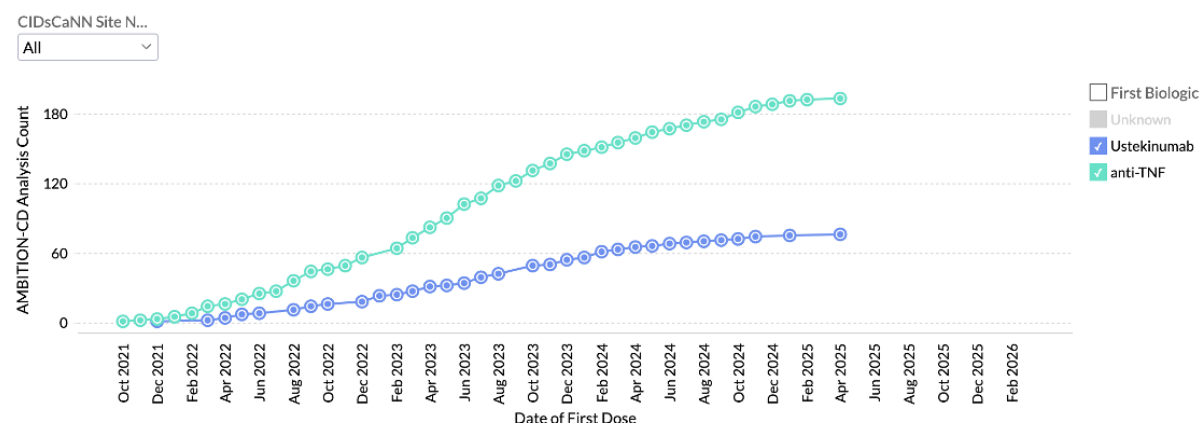
Have you subscribed to be notified of Education sessions?

This is intended to help us keep track of registration and notify participants of cancelations or changes. All you need to do is [visit the website](#) and fill in a short form.

[Go to the website](#)

Current Projects

AMBITION-CD Cohort



Phase 2 CIDsCaNN: AMBITION-CD

Participating sites: All

Assessment of Mucosal Biochemical and clinical response to Interleukin-12/23 or TNF Inhibitors in biologic-naïve Crohn's Disease

Target: 200 antiTNF, 100 UST

Inclusion criteria: Children age 2-17y with Crohn's disease starting first biologic as antiTNF or UST for luminal Crohn's disease

AMBITION-CD Site Lead Meetings take place the second Tuesday of each month.

Contact: Hayley hayley.mckay@sickkids.ca

Contact: Michelle michelle.ouzounis@sickkids.ca

Site	Enrolled in AMBITION-CD	Biologic	
		Ustekinumab	Anti TNF
Calgary	12	9	3
Ottawa	27	1	26
Montreal	4	3	1
Ste Justine	19	10	9
Vancouver	50	1	49
Toronto	66	20	46
London	20	5	15
Edmonton	28	18	10
Halifax	20	3	17
St Johns	4	0	4
Winnipeg	16	3	13
McMaster	4	3	0
Total	269	76	193

Biopsies	114 (45%)
DNA	215 (86%)
RNA	191 (76%)
Serum	196 (78%)
Stool	119 (47%)

Participating Sites



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